625 the entire existing police force.

The police should be distinguished from the security forces, which as a component part of the armed forces, are allegedly under the control of the military district command. However, the latest trend indicates an integration of the security forces into the police force. Such a step has already been taken at the district and county level, where the armed force of the police is organized to perform the functions of its predecessor, the security force.

III. CRIMINAL CODES AND LAWS GOVERNING COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES

671 Although the compilation of a criminal and civil code is assigned to the State Council's Bureau of Codification, the former Commission on Codification under the Government Administration Council, as yet no report has been made available. However, at different times decrees and orders have been issued by governments of all levels. The examination of some such decrees will help to explain how the Communist regime seeks to maintain "public order and safety."

A. Criminal Code

694 671 The decree[37] promulgated by the Chairman of the People's Republic of China in December 1954 explains the procedures for arrest and detention.

37. People's Daily, Dec. 21, 1954, p. 1.

671 694 As a rule, public security agencies when making arrests must first obtain a warrant from either the People's procuratorate or the People's court. Sometimes there are circumstances under which immediate arrests are permissible. These exceptions in fact, grant the public security agencies more power than the wording of the decree would suggest. For example, a person who cannot establish his identification or has no fixed place of residence is subject to immediate arrest. Although the decree makes provisions to guarantee the right to demand a search warrant, a minimum period of detention, and an early and rapid trial, arbitrary arrests made by the security agencies negate the value of these guarantees.

671 Apart from those decrees relating to the punishment of counterrevolutionaries, which will be discussed below, two other decrees also may be of interest: the decrees on the safekeeping of national security information[38] and on the violation of laws pertaining to the national currency.[39] National security information includes not only national security and military matters in the usual sense but also any data relating to economic and financial affairs, transportation conditions, and matters of a judicial and legislative nature. Hence, any leakage of such information is a criminal offense, subject to severe punishment. In the same fashion, any violation of the laws on national currency committed with the intention of aiding counterrevolutionaries is regarded as an act of counterrevolution and bears severe penalty.

38. Yangtze Daily June 11 1951, p. 1.
39. Ibid. April 28, 1951, p. 4.